

**Constitution of the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) St. John's University School  
of Law Chapter**

**Article I – Name**

This organization shall be known as “The National Association of Consumer Advocates – St. John’s University School of Law Chapter.”

**Article II – Purpose**

The National Association of Consumer Advocates is dedicated to fostering research, discussion, and advocacy in the field of Consumer Law. We are committed to strengthening ties between consumer attorneys, consumer law groups, and the St. John’s community. We work to:

1. educate St. John’s law students about consumer law and opportunities within it;
2. create networks between consumer law attorneys, advocacy organizations, and the St. John’s law school in order to promote the field of consumer protection law and provide training opportunities for law students;
3. foster community among student advocates whose interests intersect with consumer protection; and
4. encourage and maintain consumer protection curriculum and clinic opportunities at St. John’s.

**Article III – Membership**

The NACA – St. John’s Chapter officers shall be members of the NACA – St. John’s Chapter Executive Board, which will meet periodically to determine the general direction of the organization and to decide issues of long-term importance. Only current St. John’s law students may serve on the Executive Board.

General membership will be open towards any law student attending St. John’s University School of Law who holds an interest in consumer law and supports the mission of NACA. General members will possess the right to propose amendments to the Constitution or bylaws, as well as the ability to suggest and hold Executive Board positions. We will not restrict membership based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (including membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services).

**Article IV – Officers and Elections**

The following officers shall constitute the Executive Board:

**President:** responsible for setting the organization's agenda for each school year, communicating this agenda to the Board and general membership, acting as organization spokesperson, setting and managing goals for events, submitting event proposals, calling regular meetings, and ensuring the coordination of Executive Board.

**Vice President:** responsible for acting as a liaison with NACA's national office and local attorney chapters, calling and running chapter meetings in the President's absence, working with the President to oversee projects and events, and working with the Treasurer to seek funding from outside sources.

**Treasurer:** responsible for applying for funds, maintaining budgets, facilitating reimbursement requests, and working with the Vice President to seek outside funding sources.

**Secretary:** responsible for relaying outgoing messages to membership, recording general and Executive Board meeting attendance, taking minutes at general and Executive Board meetings, managing membership lists, enabling new members to get involved, and connecting with like-minded organizations at St. John's and other law schools.

The NACA – St. John's Chapter Executive Board officers shall be appointed by a majority vote of the outgoing Executive Board in the spring of each year. Each officer will serve for a term of one school year, but they may run for consecutive terms. No current Executive Board Member may vote for a position which they are in contention for.

In the case of a tie, the tie will be broken by the general membership. The organization will hold a general meeting, and the position will be allocated through majority vote. If the general election also results in a tie, the winner will be decided through a coin toss.

If a member of the Executive Board plans on taking a leave of absence, they must inform the remainder of the Executive Board before taking their leave. Under those circumstances, the Executive Board will elect a prompt replacement through majority vote.

The exact composition of the leadership team is flexible based on law student interest and may include the following, based on the needs of the organization: **Event Planning Chair, Community Outreach Chair, 1L Representative.** These Executive Board officers would hold the following duties:

**Event Planning Chair:** responsible for coordinating with the Executive Board to plan consumer law-focused undertakings and establishing a breakdown of duties for event preparation.

**Community Outreach Chair:** responsible for connecting with prospective consumer law event speakers and keeping track of any volunteering opportunities.

**1L Representative:** responsible for acting as a liaison between the first-year law students and the organization and advertising events to the first-year students.

#### **Article V – Meetings**

NACA – St. John's Chapter will hold a minimum of one general meeting per semester, and two Executive Board meetings per semester. Meetings will be called by the President.

### **Article VI – Amendments**

Any member can propose a constitutional amendment by contacting the President. The Executive Board will contact general members by email when an amendment is to be voted on. An amendment that receives a two-thirds majority vote from general the general membership will pass, except that no amendment shall be adopted without the affirmative vote of all the Faculty Advisors.

### **Article VII – Bylaws**

Any member can propose an amendment to the bylaws by contacting the President.

Any proposed amendment to the bylaws will be voted on by the current Executive Board. If approved by a two-thirds majority and the Faculty Advisors, the changes will be approved and shared with the general membership.

**Bylaws** as of the organization's founding are:

- The elections for the first Executive Board or any Executive Board following a period of defunct status will be decided through an election by all current general membership.
- All members must be given a minimum of 24 hours of notice prior to the meeting time.
- General membership is contingent on attending at least one general body meeting per semester, barring unique circumstances.
- Dissolution of the National Association of Consumer Advocates – St. John's Chapter will be decided by consensus among the Executive Board and Faculty Advisors through a vote.
- Officers may be removed for good cause through consensus of the faculty advisors.

### **Article VIII – Authority**

This organization is a recognized student organization at St. John's University School of Law and adheres to all the rules and obligations of that institution.

This organization may establish rules governing administration and procedure. Governing rules shall not conflict with these guidelines and may be adopted or amended through majority vote at a general meeting.